

### Abstract of the Disclosure

A friction clutch mechanism for a draft gear assembly includes a pair of outer stationary plate members, a pair of movable plate members, a pair of inner stationary plate members  
5 having an inner surface which is tapered at an angle of approximately  $4.5^\circ$ , a pair of wedge shoe members having an upper surface which is tapered from a point disposed inwardly from the tapered outer surface inwardly toward and at an acute angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the friction clutch  
10 mechanism, and a center wedge member which includes a pair of correspondingly tapered surfaces frictionally engageable with the upper tapered surface of a respective one of the pair of wedge shoe members. The tapered upper surface of the pair of wedge shoe members is tapered at an angle of approximately  
15  $49.0^\circ$ - $50.0^\circ$ . The pair of tapered surfaces of the center wedge is tapered at an angle of about  $49.5^\circ$ .